

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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MORE THAN \$2 MILLION IN AMERICORPS GRANTS AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley today announced more than \$2 million in AmeriCorps grants available for non-profits and government agencies working to address educational, public safety, homeland security, environmental and human service needs in North Carolina. The N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, a federally funded agency in the Governor's office, will coordinate the distribution of the grants.

"In the past week, we have all witnessed the importance of volunteers and public servants as North Carolina recovers from the ice storm," said Easley. "Faith-based groups, environmental and public school systems can use these resources to expand their programs and provide additional services in our communities."

Applications are due to the Commission by February 7, 2002. Each application will be judged on such factors as community support, program design, organizational capacity, budget, goals and objectives, and program evaluation. Selections will be announced in August of 2003.

Organizations interested in applying are encouraged to attend an AmeriCorps grant-writing workshop prior to applying. The workshops are free and will be offered in Raleigh on December 17 and in Winston-Salem on January 14. An additional workshop on the Information Highway will be broadcasted from Raleigh to several sites throughout the state on January 16. To register for one of the workshops, call 1-800-820-4483 or email Toya.Crichlow@ncmail.net.

Applications for grants can be downloaded from the Commission's website at www.volunteernc.org. Hard copies can be obtained by calling 1-800-820-4483 or by writing the N.C. Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, 0312 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0312.

The Commission currently administers 15 AmeriCorps programs throughout North Carolina. Nearly 500 individuals serve in these programs. They tutor and mentor schoolchildren, serve in child-care centers, build houses for low-income homeowners, protect natural resources, provide interpretation and translation services to immigrants, and assist individuals with disabilities.

Since the inception of AmeriCorps in 1994, nearly 250,000 Americans – most under the age of 30 – have served in full- and part-time positions. In exchange for their service, members receive monthly stipends and educational awards to repay student loans or pay for college, graduate school or vocational training.

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